

SAMUEL HAIR JR. AND MARY
JANE SHELTON HAIR

Son of Samuel Hair and Hannah Mulhol-
land Hair.

Born December 8, 1864, Dalry, Scotland.

Married Mary Jane Shelton December 19,
1889, Midway. Later solemnized in the
Salt Lake Temple.

Died October 5, 1953, Midway.

Mary Jane Shelton, daughter of John Shel-
ton and Mary Morton.

Born June 26, 1869, Midway.

Died February 10, 1944, Midway.

Children of Samuel Hair, Jr. and Mary
Jane Shelton.

Monroe married Adele Murri.

Bernell married Rhoda Cummings.
Janet, died in youth.

At an early age, Samuel Hair, Jr., went
to work in the coal mines, or collieries, as
they were called, to help support the very
large family of his parents.

They were contacted by missionaries and
accepted the gospel. Then about the year
1878, they left their home, friends, and rela-
tives to come to Utah. Their crossing was
very uncomfortable, since they had the hum-
blest of accommodations, and with nine
children all suffering from sea-sickness, it
was very hard. They arrived in Ogden after
several months of travel, and would have
stayed there, except for the urging of one
of the missionaries, an Elder Wilson, who
recommended that they come to Midway.

Samuel and two older brothers Tom and

John, again went to work to help support the
family. He tried his hand at a number of
jobs. He worked in the Coalville mines, and
he and his brother John, cut and hauled
cordwood out of Vallejo canyon. All of
their earnings were handed over to their
mother, who would sometimes give them
a small part of it back. However, more of-
ten than not she had used all of it for the
needs of the family. Three other children
were born after they arrived in Utah, mak-
ing the family number twelve children.

Samuel was always interested in mining
and spent much of his early married life in
the hills, prospecting. They had some cows
up there and sold milk to the boarding
houses. He located a number of mining
claims for himself and in company with oth-
ers.

They bought a place in Midway and built
a two-room rock house with a lean-to-kitch-
en. The rock part still stands as the
front rooms of the old home. He also
bought a small farm and divided his time be-
tween working the farm and working his
claims. Mrs. Hair stayed in town most of
the time then to take care of the cows.

Samuel was very active in civic affairs
and spent about 16 years on the town board,
first as a councilman then as mayor, for sev-
eral terms. It was always a source of great
pride to him to note, that when he finished
his last term as mayor he had cleared up all
the town's indebtedness.

It was while he was mayor that he suf-
fered the accident that cost him his hearing.
While working on the old gravel pit near
Luke's Hot Pools, he was caved on. A verte-
bra in his neck was dislocated; but was not
discovered until it was too late to have any-
thing done. The main hearing nerve was
pinched and as the years went by it was
gradually severed, until his hearing was en-
tirely gone.

Samuel and Mary Jane loved to dance and
took every opportunity to do so. They also
participated actively in the other social
events of the town.

On February 10, 1946, two months after
their 55th wedding anniversary, a sudden
heart attack took the life of Mary Jane.

In the fall of 1946 Samuel contracted pneu-
monia and was taken to the home of a daugh-
ter-in-law. She nursed him through three ill-
nesses, each one having threatened to take
his life. However, his unusual physical
stamina enabled him to throw them off. At

nearly 89 years of age he could outwalk
many younger than himself and daily walked
to town. With his eyesight fast failing he
lived in a silent, twilight world with his
memories and his imagination as his only
companions.

The first of October, 1953, he suddenly
weakened. He didn't seem ill, just too tired
to attempt to get out of bed; and early on
the morning of October 5th he quietly
slipped away.

He was buried October 8th in the Mid-
way cemetery.

Mary Jane Shelton Hair was the oldest
daughter of John Shelton and Mary Morton.
Her early childhood was spent in and around
Wasatch County.

In 1876 the family moved to Alexander
Canyon near Wanship where her father had
a contract to cut timber. There on Febru-
ary 10, 1880, her mother died. The chil-
dren were alone with her at the time, and
she told Mary Jane to take them into the
next room and take care of them. It was
a very unhappy experience for small Mary
Jane who was just past ten. John, seven;
Margaret, five; and Steven, three.

The children were cared for by their
grandmother Margaret C. Morton for a
while then by their grandmother Abigail H.
Shelton.

Mary Jane didn't have much chance to
go to school. She finished the third grade
before she started to work. She worked for
various families in the town.

Although of a very retiring nature, she
was full of fun, and a good dancer. She
always had lots of friends and took an ac-
tive part in community affairs. She taught
Primary, was a member of the Relief So-
ciety, and the Daughters of the Pioneers.

After she married Samuel Hair Jr., their
first home was a log cabin, which later be-
came a granary; but was always known as
"The Old House."

Samuel was interested in mining, and for
many years, they spent their time in the
hills.

Mrs. Hair used to drive the horse and
buggy up to the mine to take supplies to
Samuel and many times she rode horseback.

The hard work of her early life began to
tell on her. She was ill with arthritis and
rheumatism in her hands and arms, and also
developed a heart condition.

She was still active and hardly missed a
day going to town. On February 10, 1944,

she crossed the street to the mailbox and
brought in the morning paper. She com-
plained of being tired and lay down to rest.
Samuel sat beside her and was reading her
the news. When next he looked at her she
had passed away. She was buried in the
Midway Cemetery.